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## THE HOUSE ON HAZARD HILL

NETWORK: NBC

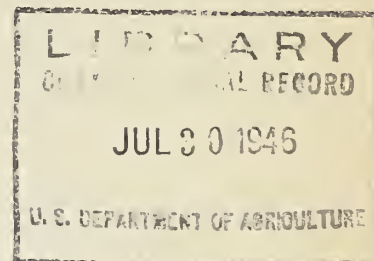
DATE: July 27, 1946

ORIGIN: WRC

TIME: 12:15-12:30 PM EDT

(Produced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture...this script is for reference only and may not be broadcast without special permission. The title CONSUMER TIME is restricted to network broadcast of the program...presented for more than thirteen years...in the interest of consumers.)

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE...MONEY IN TILL
2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME!
3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER
4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes, the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the United States Department of Agriculture. And here...  
(WHISPERING) Hey, where are Mrs. Freyman and Johnny?
5. VOICE: When we saw 'em last...they were in an automobile...  
headed for the country...and the House on Hazard Hill!
6. ANNCR: Then let's get out there!
7. SOUND: GONG, WASH OUT AND INTO.....AUTOMOBILE STOPS...DOOR SLAMS
8. FREYMAN: Here we are on Hazard Hill, Johnny. What do you think of it?
9. JOHN: Hazard Hill,...mmm. I must say, Mrs. Freyman...it's a bleak looking spot.
10. FREYMAN: Yes...somebody gave it the right name.
11. JOHN: Those two old walls over there...all that's left of what must have been a nice house.
12. FREYMAN: It was a beautiful home before it burned.
13. JOHN: I don't want to stay around here any longer than I have to.  
Don't care much about seeing places like this.

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134. SOUND: NOT QUITE AS HEAVY A COLLAPSE...BUT THE WALL TUMBLES DOWN
135. FREYMAN: Nothing left but a pile of rubble.
136. JOHN: Can you imagine even/<sup>a</sup> wall thinking that people want accidents to happen!
137. FREYMAN: Oh well...the wall didn't know any better. But I do wish that more families would be more careful in their homes.
138. 1ST WALL: (THE VOICE IS EVEN MORE HOLLOW THAN BEFORE) Dey never learn.
139. JOHN: Gad! It can still talk. Let's get going, Mrs. Freyman. This place is spooky.
140. FREYMAN: Suits me. Anyway, we're "just askin'" for a sunstroke.. standing out in the sun like this.
141. JOHN: Talking about the reason we aren't more careful in homes. Maybe it's because we don't have safety engineers around... figuring out things we can do to avoid accidents for us.
142. FREYMAN: In that case...we no longer have a reason for our carelessness.
143. JOHN: No?
144. FREYMAN: Nope. Because the Department of Agriculture has just issued a bulletin called Watch Your Step. It gives us the advice of expert safety engineers about things to do and not to do in the home...to avoid accidents.
145. JOHN: And you can get a copy...
146. FREYMAN: Simply by writing to CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for "Watch Your Step".
147. JOHN: I'll repeat the address. It's CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D.C. Follow the advice in this bulletin...and you'll cut down the chances of any member of your family suffering from an accident...right...Mrs. Freyman?
149. FREYMAN: Right. Now...for next week...
150. JOHN: What is the topic for next week's discussion?

# THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF KING CHARLES THE FIRST

IN THE YEAR 1649

BY

JOHN BURNET

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON

1704

Printed by J. Streater, in Strand

and by W. Baskin, in Pall-mall

and by J. Smith, in St. Dunstons

and by J. Widdowes, in St. Pauls

and by J. Child, in St. Andrews

and by J. Knapton, in St. Martins

and by J. Tonson, in St. Dunstons

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151. FREYMAN: Soap, Johnny. Soap and fats and oils. How to save them...  
and why.
152. JOHN: . Then be with us next week for another edition of...
153. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
154. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME!
155. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER
156. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Virginia Watkins, and directed by  
Frederick Schweikher, is presented by the U. S. Department  
of Agriculture, through the facilities of the National  
Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations.  
It comes to you from Washington, D. C.
- This is the National Broadcasting Company.





14. FREYMAN: Nobody likes to see them, Johnny. But I thought it would be an object lesson for us. This house burned because a mother didn't put the matches out of her little boy's reach. And since this is the last day of National Safety Week....
15. JOHN: It's really National Farm Safety Week...
16. FREYMAN: Farm Safety or city safety...we ought to make the end of this week the beginning of a safe year by taking away those hazards that lead to the greatest number of accidents. And more accidents happen in the home than in any where else.
17. JOHN: Yes, maybe this old house was in the country, but mothers in the city can be careless with matches too.
18. FREYMAN: Can be...and are, Johnny. And it's tragic when you think of the family, for instance, who must have lost everthing in this fire.
19. JOHN: It is terrible. I guess the house was pretty old.
20. FREYMAN: Old! If those walls could talk they'd tell you what happened during Revolutionary days!
21. 1ST WALL: (JIMMY DURANTE TYPE) Ahhh...I could give out with dat stuff... all right. But chances are...you wouldn't depreciate it.
22. FREYMAN: What's that you say...Johnny?
23. JOHN: Me? I didn't...
24. 1ST WALL: Wise guy...huh. D'ya want me to talk or don't cha? I got plenty of time. Me...ole Two Brick...can tell ya a lot. And de lady dere...she...
25. JOHN: Wait a minute. That voice sounds like it's coming from over here...out of this delapidated old wall.
26. 1ST WALL: Okay guy...get funny. Come closer and I'll fall on ya.



27. FREYMAN: Johnny...it is the wall!
28. JOHN: I...I know.
29. 2ND WALL: (ZAZU PITTS TYPE) Of course it's the wall...you're the nine hundred, ninety-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy-seven person.
30. FREYMAN: Both walls can speak. I don't understand it.
31. 2ND WALL: It's not difficult to understand. Every nine hundred ninety-nine thousand, seven hundred seventy-seventh person who says..."If those walls could talk..."
32. 1ST WALL: Dey...gets a surprise, if de idea appeals to us...eh...Half Brick? People always stating dat walls have ears...
33. 2ND WALL: But, the truth is, Two Brick and I can also talk...every now and then.
34. FREYMAN: Well...I never. This probably hasn't happened to anybody before.
35. 1ST WALL: Naa. And it won't happen again for some time, I might say. Not until another nine hundred, ninety-nine thousand....
36. JOHN: Tell me...ah...Two Brick...why did the idea of talking to us appeal to you?
37. 1ST WALL: I can only speak for myself...but I want to express myself on de subject of careless people dat go around askin' for accidents.
38. FREYMAN: People don't usually go around..."asking for accidents".
39. 2ND WALL: Maybe not. But we feel that when they're careless about watching out for their own safety...it amounts to the same thing.
40. 1ST WALL: Dey is askin' for it. And here's de way I feel. I ain't never had any respect for 'em. Don't have no respect for 'em. And I ain't plannin' to develop no respect for 'em. And dat is all I've got to say.



41. JOHN: (HE'S ANXIOUS TO GET AWAY) Well, that's all right with me. Let's go...Mrs. Freyman. I don't think I like this place.
42. FREYMAN: I'm not so sure I do either, Johnny. Seems pretty spooky to me.
43. JOHN: Yeah...that's what I mean. Let's get back to the car and...
44. 2ND WALL: Oh, don't go yet. Don't mind Two Brick, he's just bitter. And I get so little chance to say anything.
45. 1ST WALL: Dat's like you...Half Brick, always wantin' to talk....
46. FREYMAN: Well, at least...uh...Half Brick is nice about it. Maybe if you'll be nice about it too, we'll stay and learn what you know about people's carelessness...won't we, Johnny?
47. JOHN: Er...well, sure...sure I'll stay.
48. 1ST WALL: Okay. But first, you gotta understand. It is my outlook dat gives me de opportunity to form my conclusions from wide experience.
49. 2ND WALL: Was your outlook.
50. 1ST WALL: Sure...before de big fire. I looked straight through de sitting room into de hall and I got a swell view of de stairs.
51. FREYMAN: You must have seen a lot with that view.
52. 1ST WALL: Dat's what I say. I seen a lot...for a long time. Never forget de man who added on de upstairs to de house and had de stairs built.
53. JOHN: Long ago?
54. 1ST WALL: Ahh...a hundred or so years. He was a general.
55. 2ND WALL: A major.
56. 1ST WALL: A major...anyway, no sooner did he get de whole thing finished than one night he came bouncing down de stairs in a most unusual manner. Not on his feet at all.





57. 2ND WALL: Poor man. He had on his dress uniform, for some reason,  
Had his sword buckled at his side...
58. 1ST WALL: Yeah...but he tripped over it at de top of de stairs. It  
was upsettin' to say de least.
59. FREYMAN: It must have been. But fortunately...an accident like that  
wouldn't happen again in a lifetime.
60. 2ND WALL: You think not? Tell them, Two Brick.
61. 1ST WALL: It happened again. In a year or so, the kid got big enough  
to leave his playtoy at the top of the stairs...and would  
you believe it...de same guy comes down de same steps de  
same way. And ever since den...
62. 2ND WALL: Yes...ever since then right up to the time of the fire...  
it happened. A child left his toy at the top of the stairs...  
the father tripped over it...and Two Brick got to see him  
come tumbling down. Of course, I couldn't see the stairs...  
I could only hear the falls.
63. 1ST WALL: It sure busts 'em up when dey fall. You'd think dey'd learn  
after a few generations.
64. 2ND WALL: But here on Hazard Hill...they didn't seem to learn one bit  
from experience.
65. JOHN: Sounds like those stairs helped give the place its name.
66. 1ST WALL: Ahh...dey was only a minor part of it. Dere was dat spot of  
floor...right as you come into de sittin' room. Remember  
dat...Half Brick?
67. 2ND WALL: Yes, indeed. I used to see that quite well. Each mistress  
of the house would polish only that spot of floor. They'd  
polish it and polish it...and then they'd slip down on it.
68. FREYMAN: Didn't they realize how dangerous they were making the  
doorway?





69. 1ST WALL: Naa...dey never learned. When a few years would go by without nobody breaking a bone or so from slipping on de floor...somebody'd get a bright idea <sup>and</sup> / put down a little rug on the slick spot. It always got results.
70. 2ND WALL: Except one little woman decided to put a stop to that.
71. 1ST WALL: Yeah...she was a couple of grandmothers ago.
72. 2ND WALL: She decided to make the rug non-skid. So she tacked jar rubbers all the way around underneath it.
73. JOHN: Mush have been a relief to have somebody like that 'round the place...if it was only for one generation.
74. 1ST WALL: She didn't even last that long. What ever happened to her, Half Brick?
75. 2ND WALL: I don't exactly know. But, as you say, she was a misfit in the household.
76. FREYMAN: From what yo' tell me, the people who lived here on Hazard Hill folowed the general pattern in their accidents.
77. 2ND WALL: How is that?
78. FREYMAN: Well...the largest percent of fatal accidents in homes is from falls. And it sounds like Hazard Hill certainly contributed its share to that percentage through the years.
79. 1ST WALL: Dey fell through time, so to speak.
80. 2ND WALL: I'm not sure, though, that the largest part of this household's accidents was falls.
81. JOHN: No? What would you say they were?
82. 2ND WALL: You'd be amazed at the variety of ways they managed to let themselves get hurt. My outlook, you know, was through the doorway into the kitchen. Many's the accident I've witnessed in there.
83. FREYMAN: I can imagine. The kitchen is always a danger spot in any house.



84. 2ND WALL: So it was here. When the cooks weren't scalding themselves with boiling water, they were burning themselves with grease they let catch on fire...or they were putting knives out where the children could play with them.
85. 1ST WALL: Dat's rich. Tell 'em about de time Junior cut off his little finger with de butcher knife.
86. 2ND WALL: Oh, that. You see, his mother left the weapon near the edge of the table where the child could reach it.
87. 1ST WALL: Natcherly, he got it. Den stumbled and cut his little finger off.
88. 2ND WALL: Only a minor injury, as injuries go. But his mother.... poor woman...later succumbed to a fatal accident.
89. FREYMAN: My goodness! How did it happen?
90. 1ST WALL: Dis was after dey'd modernized de place...
91. 2ND WALL: Ye ...we understand they made many changes. Would you believe it, they had water...running...inside the house.
92. JOHN: A lot of houses do, you know.
93. 1ST WALL: Dis modern age.
94. FREYMAN: What happened to the woman? Did she drown?
95. 1ST WALL: Nope. Dat's one accident dey didn't think of. Can't imagine why not.
96. 2ND WALL: No...it wasn't drowning. This poor lady was given to taking pills and powders, I understand. As a matter of fact, I've seen her do it.
97. 1ST WALL: But her trouble came from taking medicine when nobody...not even her could see.
98. 2ND WALL: Alas yes. It was her went to get up in the night and grope around in the medicine cabinet without turning on a light.
99. JOHN: Uh-oh. Sounds like a case of poisoning.



100. 1ST WALL:       Dat it was.
101. FREYMAN:        You don't mean she kept poison in her medicine cabinet!
102. 2ND WALL:       Oh yes. They all did. She happened to be the one who suffered because of it.
103. JOHN:            Didn't these people on Hazard Hill ever hear that the best way to prevent an accident is to get rid of the hazards?
104. 1ST WALL:       Sure dey'd heard it. But dey thought it was a joke. And dat is why I got no respeck for 'em.
105. FREYMAN:        People who deliberately ignore the dangers of hazards don't deserve much sympathy or respect.
106. 1ST WALL:       Look at de shape deir carelessness got me and Half Brick in.
107. FREYMAN:        That's the way with lots of accidents. Se many times children or innocent bystanders suffer because of somebody else's carelessness.
108. 2ND WALL:       Be fair, Two Brick. You once thought those accidents were funny.
109. 1ST WALL:       Yeah? Well now I feel like dat little boy when he came home from de party to tell his mother dat one of de children fell down and everybody laughed at him. De moder said dat was nice of him not to laugh and who was de child who fell down. And he said...Moder...it was me.
110. JOHN:            Yes...when an accident happens at home...it isn't funny. And it can be tragic.
111. FREYMAN:        I'm glad you decided to talk, Two Brick. Because these experiences on Hazard Hill remind me of the hazards to watch for in my own house.
112. JOHN:            You mean toys at the top of the stairs?
113. FREYMAN:        Well, anything that might cause a fall. Unmended stairs, shaky step-ladders, little rugs on highly polished floors...





114. JOHN: Do you suppose that's why those little rugs are called...  
throw rugs?
115. FREYMAN: Oh Johnny! Then there are the things that cause burns..
116. JOHN: Like pans on the stove...handles out. Or lids lifted the  
wrong way...or matches put in the wrong place...
117. FREYMAN: Or faulty electrical equipment.
118. JOHN: Then the misplaced articles...like that poison in the medicine  
cabinet.
119. FREYMAN: Or the knife left out where the child could get it...or  
firearms left where anybody can get to them.
120. 1ST WALL: (LAUGHS) Ho ho ho...how amusing.
121. FREYMAN: What's amusing, Two Brick.
122. 1ST WALL: How knave!
123. JOHN: I don't get you.
124. 1ST WALL: Dat you should think anybody, even yourself, is gonna  
watch out for dos things. Ho, ho, ho.
125. FREYMAN: Of course I am.
126. JOHN: Surely you don't think most people want to lose their lives,  
or hurt themselves and other people or lose their property.
127. 2ND WALL: That's been our experience.
128. JOHN: Well...take my word for it. Not only do people try to keep  
from having accidents happen, but they even go to the length  
of putting up safety devices in factories and on machines  
that are dangerous.
129. 1ST WALL: (LAUGHS HARDER) Stop it. You're making me split my side.
130. 2ND WALL: Two Brick. Do be careful.
131. 1ST WALL: Careful? Me be careful? (LAUGHS RAUCOUSLY)
132. SOUND: ONE BRICK FALLS, THEN ANOTHER...THEN THE WHOLE WALL COLLAPSES
133. 2ND WALL: Oh! I'm falling too.

